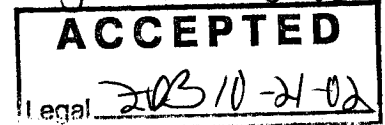


McNair Law Firm, p.a.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

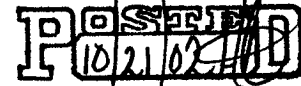
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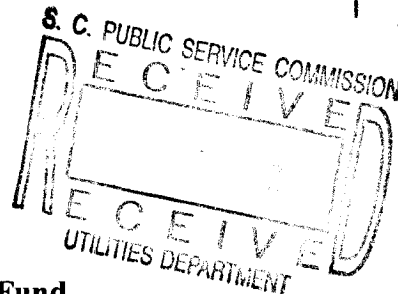
October 21, 2002



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The Honorable Gary E. Walsh
Executive Director
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210



**Re: Intrastate Universal Service Fund
Docket No. 97-239-C**

Dear Mr. Walsh:

I am writing on behalf of Bluffton Telephone Company, Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Hargray Telephone Company, Home Telephone Company, Horry Telephone Cooperative, and PBT Telecom (the Petitioning ILECs) to request that the Commission lift its stay of further proceedings in the above-referenced docket. By its Order No. 2002-644 in this docket, the Commission issued a stay of the present matter involving the Petitioning ILECs. The stay was ordered by the Commission in accordance with Judge Kinard's Order dated August 23, 2002, issuing a temporary stay of further USF proceedings. By Order of the Court dated September 30, 2002, Judge Kinard ruled on the merits of the case and lifted the court's temporary stay of the proceedings.

In its Order No. 2002-644, the Commission stated: "Should the Stay of the Circuit Court be lifted, we will issue a new scheduling Order in the present proceeding, and the six companies will be able to file and serve testimony and exhibits again in this matter." Accordingly, we ask that the Commission issue a new scheduling order in this proceeding.

Please return a clocked-in copy of this letter with our courier. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Margaret M. Fox

MMF/tmb
Enclosures
cc: Parties of Record